

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (amended) The optical information recording medium according to claim 13, wherein said recording layer further contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, In, Si, Ge, Sn, Sb, Bi, Sc, Ti, Nb, Cr, Mo Co, Cu, Ag, Au, Pd, N, and O.

Please add new claim 20 as follows:

20. (new) The optical information recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said recording layer further contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, In, Si, Ge, Sn, Sb, Bi, Sc, Ti, Nb, Cr, Mo Co, Cu, Ag, Au, Pd, N, and O.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claim 15. A marked-up copy of the claim is attached.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

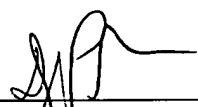
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

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wherein the recording layer containing the material that can exhibit a reversible transition between the crystalline state and the amorphous state as a main component satisfies a relationship expressed as:

$$|k_c - k_a| \geq 0.5$$

- 5 where k_c represents an extinction coefficient of said material in the crystalline state.

11. The optical information recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the n_a and n_c satisfy a relationship expressed as:

10 $n_a - n_c \leq 1.0$

12. The optical information recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the recording layer containing the material that can exhibit a reversible transition between the crystalline state and the amorphous state ,
15 as a main component satisfies a relationship expressed as:

$$E_0(c) \leq E_0(a) - 0.15$$

where $E_0(c)$ represents an energy gap of said material in the crystalline state, and $E_0(a)$ represents an energy gap of said material in the amorphous state.

13. The optical information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said recording layer contains Se, and a content of Se in said recording layer is not less than 20 at% and not more than 60 at%.

- 25 14. The optical information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said recording layer contains Te and X, X representing at least one element selected from the group consisting of In, Al, Ga, Zn, and Mn,

wherein a content of Te in said recording layer is between 20 at%
30 and 60 at%, and
a content of X therein is between 20 at% and 50 at%.

15. The optical information recording medium according to claim 13 or
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35 wherein said recording layer further contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, In, Si, Ge, Sn, Sb, Bi, Sc, Ti, Nb, Cr, Mo Co, Cu, Ag, Au, Pd, N, and O.